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HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS
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1450, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW.

DATE: April 1, 2004

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Patent Application of : Group Art Unit 3731
Stephan Prestel :
Conf No.: 8933 :
Appln. No.: 10/039,506 : Examiner: Bradford C. Pantuck
Filed: January 4, 2002 :
For: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT : Attorney Docket
: No. 7535-651US
: (RW 616 US)

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER (37 C.F.R. § 1.136(A))

Applicant(s) in the above-identified application hereby petition(s) for a one-month extension of time to and including April 19, 2004 for responding to the Office Action mailed December 19, 2003 (Paper No. 5). A response to the Office Action accompanies this Petition.

A check in the amount of \$110.00 is enclosed herewith.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1017 (Billing No. 207535.0651) as noted below. A duplicate copy is enclosed.

Extension fee in the amount of \$_____.00

Any deficiencies or overpayments in the above-calculated fee.

RECEIVED

APR 13 2004

Respectfully submitted,

STEPHAN PRESTEL

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1370

April 1, 2004

(Date)

By:

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WWS/rc
Enclosure

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